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HISTORY OF THE WORKHOUSE

POOR'S HOSPITAL OF ABERDEEN

From 1739 to 1818

BOYS' HOSPITAL

From 1818 to 1852

GIRLS' HOSPITAL

From 1828 to 1852

AND THE

BOYS' AND GIRLS' HOSPITALS

From 1852 to 1885

Aberdeen

J. & J. T. EDMOND & SPARK

1885.



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SINCERITY AND FEARLESSNESS

THE HISTORY
OF
AN ABERDEEN BENEVOLENCE.

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THE
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1885.

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Aberdeen :

PRINTED BY MILNE & HUTCHISON.

TO THE
FUTURE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE EREWHILE
Boys' and Girls' Hospitals of Aberdeen
THIS SKETCH
IS
DEDICATED.

In the form of an Address to the Members of the Association of Old Boys, of the Boys' and Girls' Hospitals, the greater part of the contents of the following pages were first delivered.

ONE OF THE
Aberdeen Benevolences of 1739.

I HAD the pleasure to be present at the first Meeting of this Association of the Old Boys of a House with which I have been long connected, for which you shew no meaningless respect, and to which you pay a compliment when you seek to keep up that old family tie, and that old school influence which first began within its walls. The Inaugural Address of the Honorary President, your former teacher, was all that such a Meeting needed. He still is, and always will be, your "guide, philosopher and friend," if you will but let him. In his thoughtful, earnest way, he told you what to seek and what to avoid—the good your Association might win for you, and the evil it might keep you from. I don't think he made either the Loafer, the Soaker, or the

Masher, objects of attraction. He struck a key note that evening, which, I trust, you will struggle to keep up to: don't drift into a mutual adulation Society, or become hypercritical. The one extreme is as bad as the other. Let your honest effort be, in the words of one of the Rules of your Association, "to provide means for social intercourse and mutual improvement."

In the Syllabus, without consulting me, you put me down for delivering an address to you this evening. You didn't need to ask, for I think you all knew me sufficiently well to know that I would not hesitate, to attempt, at any rate, to serve you.

On asking Mr. Barnett what subject he thought would interest you most, he said "Just give us something about 'the Hospital,' like *yon* ye gave about Robert Gordon's College." I agreed, and am now about to give the results of a lot of curious reading in old forgotten minute books, &c.

Just seven years after the death of Robert Gordon, while the house which bore his name still stood unused, the fathers of the city met and took steps to erect an Infirmary and a Workhouse. This was in the year 1739. The resolution passed on the 17th of February of that year says that the steps the Town Council were about to take were, by the

blessing of God, likely to tend to "promote religion, suppress vice, propagate industry and virtue, and be a general benefit to society."

With this object the Town Council had already bought a large ruinous edifice, with a great garden, "conveniently situated on the North side of the Castlegate, near to the Town House." It had back and fore entries to the street and fields, we are told, and had, in other days, been a town residence of Earl Aberdeen.

Before we leave this purchase let us try to bring the place and its surroundings to our mind's eye. Green fields are round the Hospital of to-day, as you all know, but it requires some little stretch of fancy to be able "to babble o' green fields, on the North side of the Castlegate, near to the Town House." The subject so described lay behind the Tolbooth, occupying, with its outhouses and garden, more than all that is now covered by the prison. One small speck of grass still exists on the outside of the prison wall, at the top of Rettie's Court, in Broad Street; but in 1740, where King Street now runs, green fields abounded. The Maut Hillock stood about where Messrs. Chivas' shop is, and the New Inn offered entertainment for man and beast where the North

of Scotland Banking House now stands. On the other sides of the Castlegate the town residences of many of the county families were. The Shiprow entered by the Exchequer Row into the great Square. On one side of the Shiprow, rose S. Catharine's Hill ; beyond S. Catharine's Hill, on what is now the line of Union Street, lay snug little homesteads, each in its own kailyaird or garden, and which, when the time came for seeking elbow room for the City, gave the Town Council no little trouble to buy up. These tenements and yards stretched down behind S. Catharine's Hill, towards that other minor market place of the Burgh—the Green. They lay thickly round the old possessions of the Trinity Friars—the Carmelite Street of to-day—while S. Nicholas Church and lands sloped towards these crofts and houses in the Green, and on the Union Street line. There was then no S. Nicholas Street—only by Putachie side could you reach the tenements which lay in considerable numbers on to and beyond Adie's Wynd, the Bow Brig, and Windmill Croft. Into the Round Table, a circular space, running in front of the present Town House, Police Department door, back to the front of Baillie Donald's premises there ran Castlegate, Huxter Row, Shiprow, and Guestrow. The

Netherkirkgate and the Upperkirkgate led out of the circle—the first direct, the second *via* the Guestrow.

At that date, in the 18th century, the population of Aberdeen did not exceed 10,000, yet the extent of building and the amount of improvements done between 1730 and 1750 was enormous.

During that period the Magistrates rebuilt the then oldest part of S. Nicholas Church, the present West Kirk. They built Robert Gordon's Hospital, the Infirmary, this Workhouse, and Bedlam; strengthened and repaired the Block House, putting four 10-Pounders, two 8-Pounders, and three hundred stands of Muskets therein; and last, but not least, they successfully fought a famine which was then in the land. In one transaction the Magistrates bought 6000 bolls of Oatmeal, which they retailed out to the starving people at One Shilling the peck.

Don't let us forget either, that they were distracted, as all the North of Scotland was, by the political and dynastic differences of the time. In the Town Council, in the Guildry, in the Convener Court of the Incorporated Trades, almost in every household in Aberdeen, the House of Stuart, as well as the House of Hanover, had supporters, who were not always easily kept from springing at each

others' throats. I cannot help repeating what I have often felt in reading these old Records of Aberdeen, that men fight not *now*, as they did in these brave days of old. For some good purpose you will find them working as one, patriotism, and not party, was then an appreciable influence. In the words of the "proposals" of 1739, "to promote religion, to suppress vice—propagate industry and virtue, and benefit society," and to lessen human misery, we found the Jacobite and Hanoverian, Quaker and Papist, the Craftsmen and the Laird working side by side. The contributions, and the names of the contributors are pleasing proof that in those days no one class of citizens, because they took an interest in some Institution, deemed it needful to assert that special arrangements should be made for *their convenience* in its conduct.

With very little change, the governing bodies named 140 years ago govern still, with exception of the Parochial Board, which sought and got, with questionable benefit to the Institution, a share in the management of the Hospital, somewhat over 30 years ago.

Before we enter on the history proper of the Hospital let us take a look, by the aid of the minute

books, of the plain way in which all things connected with building and altering were then managed. No instructing of Committees to advertise for estimates. Provost Chalmers is requested to buy the cargo of slates, at the price of 15 pounds Scots per 1000 ; Convener Barron is bidden go to the roup at Frasersburgh, on Tuesday, and buy two or three loads of "the cheapest shacken, single dails" ; and Convener Chrystal is requested to repair to Edinburgh and Glasgow and observe how they build and equip Infirmarys and Workhouses there. These instructions had all been carried out, and on the Woolmanhill the Infirmary rose.

On the North side of the Castlegate, near to the Town House also, the Earl of Aberdeen's old residence was fitted for its new use. On the 31st October, 1741, it was opened. One apartment was prepared for males of vicious or disorderly habits, idle strollers and vagabonds. Another apartment of like form for those of a kindred character was erected. Here women were to be taught the knitting of stockings and the weaving of linsey woolsey cloth. The men were to be taught to rasp wood, dress hemp, flax, and pick oakum. But your male or female vagabond would no more, in 1740, work, than

he or she would in 1880. So *that* part of the scheme was, after a struggle, given up, and we are left to follow the fortune of the Boys' Hospital.

Mr. John Rickart, Mr. Kemp, and Mr. Michie were the earliest benefactors of the House. The quaint instructions as to the furnishing of its 25 beds are:—to give George Gordon, merchant, a commission to buy for each bed a harden sheet, a harden bolster, and two pairs of Murray blankets, besides a covering of Steenhive sacking. Patrick Barron is to make a bed, as a pattern, in the easiest manner he can, in order to compute the price of the bedsteads; and the Committee are of opinion that the vagabonds doe lye in the vaults on straw, with a covering of sacking.

A master, a mistress, and a clerk, to live in the House, are selected. The master's salary to be 100 pounds Scots; the mistress', 100 merks; and the clerk's, the same. Mr. James Kemp and his wife are the first master and mistress. The worthy pair were, a few months after their election, allowed one shilling and sixpence weekly for fresh provisions, over and above the House allowance. The sort of children first selected one would have thought would have fixed the position of the future applicants'

parents. I find those children's parents were hard-working honest "jewellers," "painters," "weavers," &c. The Committee instructed Mr. Kemp that his lessons are to be given according to the new method of teaching English, and he is further to write that night, 4th November, 1741, to Edinburgh for 5 dozen of spelling books.

You see, Mr. Barnett, that it was not left to you, and the Trustees of your day, to introduce "the new method of teaching," for, with 5 dozen of spelling books, and the Shorter Catechism, it was begun in 1742.

The seats in the College Kirk were rather far away from the pulpit, "a disadvantage and a hindrance to Christian knowledge," so "the people of the House," by the aid of Provost Chalmers, were after this, accommodated in the said Kirk "at the back of the Lawyers' Loft"—near enough to the law, if not to the testimony. The Beddal is instructed to send a list, every Monday morning, to Mr. Kemp of the attendance. At this particular date, I find the inmates were about 40 old men and women, 51 boys, and 13 girls; and, in consequence of some of the boys being taken to America by some of the Merchants in town, the Committee

request the Magistrates, by tuck of drum, to warn all persons against tampering with, or enticing boys to go to the Plantations without the previous consent of the Directors and the boys' parents.

Mr. Kemp and his wife resign the office of teacher, clerk, and mistress, and Mr. Mann is elected teacher and clerk.

In the next year, 1743, the practice of binding the boys to a trade is commenced. I find that of a dozen who leave in the beginning of that year, four became sailors, two wrights, one a barber, one a baker, one a brick maker, one a weaver, one a tailor, and one "leaves it to the gentlemen of the Committee to say what he should turn his attention to." But the brick maker is seemingly induced by some "Merchants in town" to change his mind, for, at next meeting, consent is given to his going to Philadelphia.

Eight webs of linsey woolsey, the product of the industry of the House, are bought by Provost Chalmers at the rate of 18/- per web, with the proviso that if any one offer more he shall get them; Baillie Morrison bids 20/-, and gets the linsey woolsey.

In November, 1743, a dozen dressed sheep skins were ordered to be bought, for breeches, to such of

the boys as have greatest need, and the Committee are to consider, by next meeting, how frocks are to be provided for such as want them. At the same date, William Sutherland and John Youngson were appointed to keep the town free of vagrants, with which it is beginning to swarm, particularly young boys. The two men are to come to the Committee meeting every Saturday to receive strict injunctions of diligence in doing their duty. Provost Robertson, on visiting the House, reports that he found many of the boys nearly naked for want of breeches, that he thinks the sheep skin breeches exceeding cold, and that cloth ones would be "as frugal, and warmer." This is acquiesced in, cloth breeches are forthwith got, and skin aprons, to enable the boys to keep their clothes clean, are ordered to be made.

The flat low tables at which the boys dined were not found convenient to write at, so a sloping table, at a proper height along the partition, is, under estimate from Francis Rose, wright, to be erected. But something else is now distracting the attention of Managers and Master. Under date 12th December, 1745, we have this entry in a blank space above the date 9th January, 1746 :—" In this interval, the confusions growing very thick, and the rebels

very outrageous, some of the principal Directors being obliged to abscond, and the master of the House, having narrowly escaped the hands of a party of the rebels, and being obliged to retire to the country, there could be no meeting. The pretence of the said armed party was, that there was a considerable quantity of arms kept in the House to be sent to Inverness to My Lord Louden." Little wonder that Mr. Mann fled to the country.

Robert Gordon's Hospital had been twice filled with soldiers of the Duke of Cumberland, who were sore lied on if they didn't, without any "pretence" whatever, enter many a house in Aberdeen, in gratification of the instincts of a brutal soldiery. These instincts their Commander, the Duke, and General Hawley shared. For nearly three years after this significant entry, the meetings of the Managers were irregular, and the minutes are often left unsigned.

We have now traversed rather more than ten years of the life of the House. It had been actively struggling to overtake what the Industrial School, Reformatory and Poor's House are all now needed to do. Robert Gordon's Hospital had got its doors opened in 1750, and 26 boys were in it. Nearly

twice that number of children were in our House besides old infirm women and men, the vagabond, and weirdless vagrant, who could not want, and would but sparingly work. The doors of the House would have been shut, and its threefold benevolences ended, if it had not been for the resolute perseverance of those fathers of the City, whose weekly labours in the work, personal contributions, and "stent," carried Infirmary, Bedlam, and Workhouse over all their troubles.

For the first thirty years of the existence of these three Institutions their interests are mixed in no common degree. With rare good sense the Managers helped forward each, becoming sensible, say they, in one of the early minutes, "that great numbers of the stranger begging poor, now in the town, came here by means of the Infirmary. They recommend that pains be taken to see that those who have been dismissed cured, or are incurable, be carried home to their respective parishes, and at the charge of the parish to which they belong. Baillie Ligertwood is requested to get removed from the Correction House, a lunatic confined there, because there are several vagrants on the streets whom it may be necessary to confine, and this Bedlamite

must be removed for the public utility, that their house may be free."

In 1780, the Managers are of opinion that it would be to the benefit of this House that the Lodge Walk were declared a free public street. They instruct Baillie Paull to bring the matter before the Magistrates, and to point out that at a former time the Masons were willing that the Lodge Walk should be a free street, tho' they have lately put up gates. These Masons' gates have not, we know, hindered the Lodge Walk from being now made that free public street which our Directors then desired it should be.

On an average of 3 years at this date, there were—

29 Recipients above 80 years old.

89 „ between 70 and 80.

90 „ „ 60 and 70.

39 „ „ 50 and 60.

36 Boys „ 7 and 12, and 21

orphans of both sexes and different ages, entirely kept at the cost of the Hospital. Leaden badges were issued to a select set of beggars, and about £30 a year was spent on coffins. The badged beggars in 1774 numbered 60; six years after that date they were reduced to 26. From all the sources of income

£580 a year was got. About half this sum was spent on the boys ; on the 21 orphans about £60 a year. Serving the vagrants, and providing coffins, cost £30, and occasional supplies £10. The balance which remained to be divided among the 431 who were then on the roll was equal to an annual grant to each of 11/-, being less than one halfpenny per day. On examination, say the Managers, it has been found that the poor of Aberdeen are on a worse footing than those of any other town of the same rank in the kingdom, and the Managers forthwith proceed to put into action a scheme by which they hope to better the condition of the poor ; for, upon every principle of religion, policy, and common justice, the poor are entitled to assistance and relief. The Magistrates acquiesce in the recommendation contained in the Memorial sent in by the Managers. Begging is prohibited, the badges are taken from the 28 men who have them, and an allowance of something like 3/- each per month is granted ; but in less than two years the Managers are forced to state that so lamentably deficient are their funds now that they cannot bestow on the poor an average allowance of more than one farthing per day to each. It is therefore deemed highly expedient to make an

alteration on the proportions fixed for the support of the House and School and the Poor. Mr. Rickart's mortification and Mr. Kemp's mortification yielding yearly about £158; work and the rent of the Rope Walk produce £25—in all £183 is the whole amount, under present circumstances, available for the House.

Very strenuous exertions are made to get up the sum required for the poor by subscription. In this, to the intense regret of the Managers, they are defeated, the sum collected being little more than half what was required. Intimation of this lamentable state of matters has been already made by the Magistrates by tuck of drum, and by the ministers from their pulpits. The citizens are reminded that it is not because of any defect in the law of Scotland that a suitable provision has not been made for the poor.

So early as 1424 common begging was suppressed, and provision made for the poor. Acts of Parliament were created in 1579, in 1663, and in 1698, making very distinct legal provision for their wants, and all these Acts were then in force. "Other places," said the Managers, "have made use of these Acts:" in many Burghs, and in some Counties in Scotland, an account is regularly made. Further,

"there are instances on record of paupers prosecuting in the Court of Session, and obtaining, judicially, suitable maintenance."

The need for a separation of the School from the Workhouse pressed itself on the Managers. In 1790 the first report of a scheme for keeping separate the funds belonging to the House, and that which is called the United Fund, is prepared. In that report the separation of the funds is urged, and, as the House is declared to be too large, its sale is recommended, and a Committee named to look at the property in the Gallowgate, bequeathed to the Hospital, and report as to its being suitable. The original purchase "in the Castlegate, near to the Town House," to be feued or sold. Provost Cruden is requested to talk with Baillie Auldjo, one of the Managers of the Masons' Society, with a view to get the Managers of said Society to grant to the Managers of this House access to their grounds from the Lodge Walk.

The Committee, a few days after, allow Robert Baxter a Bible, and Thomas Wilson a New Testament with the Psalms, they being the best Scholars at the School.

It is curious to notice how often the Clerk is instructed by the Committee to dispose of the bad money. He is frequently directed to *see* it melted or clipt. I don't think that the money was always *bad*. I rather think it was foreign, or non-current coins, for the average return got seems to be about a fourth of the nominal value for silver, and nearly a fifth for copper. Of course it came, whatever it was, from the kirk door plates, and into these, then, as now, other items besides "widows' mites" went.

To run off in parties of three and four to "Steenhive" was not at all uncommon. One extensive exodus is mentioned in the end of last century, in which twelve boys are implicated. Four are expelled; one has got settled with a master in the North, and is allowed to get out the clothes he has left in the House; the previous very good conduct of another restores him to his place; and *five* are pardoned. But stricter rules and regulations are framed to prevent or check the recurrence of these elopements.

The custom of allowing the boys only one clean shirt in the week is changed, and it is now—1791—ordered, that from the 1st May to the 1st October, in all time coming, every boy is to be provided with

two clean shirts weekly. I find not what was ordered from October until May, but seemingly for 52 years they had been content with the one all the year round.

It being the desire of the Managers to have in writing the answer to their request for a quarterly collection from all the congregations in the city, it is not a little interesting to observe the tone of the answers sent. Priest Gordon in his reply says, in granting the request for a quarterly collection, "It will, Gentlemen, give me the greatest pleasure to see these collections productive, and nothing shall be wanting on my part to render them so." Another clergyman on the part of his people writes of their readiness, "*under more favourable circumstances,*" to aid. S. James' Chapel regrets that its members do not feel themselves in a position to contribute, and the Minister of another Church excuses himself and his people from making a collection, on the plea that none of their congregation are on the table, or in the House. It is wonderful how people always find, when wanted, an excuse for not contributing. However, the Managers continue to beg with renewed activity. In the vestibule of the House, and in the minute books, the fruits of their activity, and the

responses of all sorts of people, under the most odd conditions, are recorded. The benevolent then, at any rate, thought, many of them, that the more they gave the more they had to give.

The terms in which an examination of the School is recorded are worth quoting—the Committee say, “that after having heard the boys in their different classes, read and syllabicate, and seen specimens of their writing and arithmetic, and also heard them repeat their Catechism, and give a specimen of their knowledge of church music; and, having tried some of them in their knowledge of the principles of English grammar, and seen them correct a portion of ungrammatical English, and heard them recite several passages of select poetry, are unanimously of opinion that the boys have made as much progress in their several branches of education as could be expected from their years, and the time they have been in the House.” To encourage the boys, premiums are to be distributed by the master among those he thought most deserving. I question if in these days of ours, Government Inspectors give more discriminative or sensible reports. The laconic features of this antique specimen are commendable.

Equally so is the straightforward way in which, a short time after this, two of the Managers ask at the Meeting of the Dispensary Managers, "If it was any part of the physician's duty of the Dispensary to attend to the health of the boys in the House?" It evoked from their colleagues the answer, that as the Infirmary physicians have long been in the way of attending "gratis" to the health of the boys in the House, before any Dispensary was, it would, therefore, be indelicate they thought, to interfere before the physicians of the Infirmary had refused to continue to attend. The Infirmary doctors sent word that they will attend to the boys, by turns, as before.

There were now 40 boys in the House. The master's salary was £22 a year; the housekeeper's, £6; the three female domestic servants got each £3 a year. Meal cost 18/- a boll; potatoes, 10/-; barley, 13/- per cwt. Milk was half the price it now is; coals, very much the same as at this date; salt cost six times as much as it now does; soap and candles were twice the price they are to-day. Four dozen of bonnets cost £2 19/-; 100 quill pens cost 3/4. There is neither beef nor tea nor sugar in the accounts, but frequently that poor creature, "small beer;" and, every quarter, the buttermilk cost 15/-.

At the price of four hundred and seventy-five pounds Andrew Spalding's property, on the west side of the Gallowgate, is bought, because of its continuity to the property there, already belonging to the Hospital.

About this time the mistress is instructed to use economy in the mending of the boys' stockings and shirts, and as she has got three servants now, the Committee don't think it needful to grant her the 1/- a month hitherto paid for mending the shirts and stockings. But, in consequence of the care and attention which the three girls had given to William Connor, a boy who had died in the House, the master is to give them a gratuity of a shilling each, and the same gratuity annually, so long as they continue, by their good behaviour and attention, to merit it.

On the death of Mr. Glenney, in 1799, the mastership becomes vacant, and, after due examination of candidates, Mr. William Smith, from Glenmuick, is elected, at a salary of £25 a year besides bed, board, and washing. For this he is to be Superintendent, Chaplain to the House, Teacher of the School, Cashier to all the Funds of the House, including the United Fund, and Clerk to the Managers. He

is furthermore to employ his whole time in the service of the House.

The annual cost of keeping the boys in shoes had been, for some time, 12/- each ; but in consequence of the rise in the price of leather in 1800, the shoemaker is allowed an advance of 2/- for each boy, on the understanding that he takes down his price if leather fall in value during the year.

One, Nathaniel Davies from London, is, in this year, allowed to erect a wooden building, eighty-five feet in length and thirty-five in width, in the back court of the Poor's Hospital, for the purpose of his exhibition. He is strictly bound down to an occupancy of the ground of three months, a payment of 20 guineas, and the leaving of the ground as he got it. Mr. Davies' exhibition was a panorama, and I infer that it prospered, for he paid his rent like a gentleman. In 1801 the Managers assist by contributions the formation of the United Coal Fund and the Public Soup Kitchen. Both these creations have been and are the means of giving great help to a large number.

The clerk reports that bad copper to the nominal value of £32 11/7 had accumulated on his hands. It weighed some 240 pounds Dutch ; the Dutch

pound was $17\frac{1}{2}$ oz. avoirdupois. He got at the rate of 10d. a Dutch pound. For the copper belonging to the Soup Kitchen he got the same. Something like ten guineas was thus got for the House, and half that amount for the Kitchen copper. It was all the produce of the church door collections.

Frequently the Managers instructed the clerk to remind certain churches that the amount of their last quarter's collection was not "what it should be." The homely earnestness with which the duty of contributing to these Charities was urged is very touching.

I find many names of descendents of those who in 1739 created the Hospital, the Infirmary, and the Asylum, foremost in creating now a United Coal Fund and a Soup Kitchen. The weekly meetings at the House for years brought them together, and benevolent traits, like other traces of heredity, less or more recognised, were, and I hope are, active.

The amount of the money bequests and subscriptions up to this date was about £6000. The bequests made to the School were put to stock, mostly ; and there was also the property in the Gallowgate, let out to various tenants ; and the houses and garden at the "back of the Tolbooth,"

almost entirely used for the House and School. The selling of it to a good account, and the erecting, on part of the Gallowgate property, of an Hospital, were subjects of frequent discussion. Remits were made year after year, but the Managers resolved, seeing the steady rise in value of the Hospital and ground, to be in no hurry to sell or build.

In 1803, "seeing that a scheme is carrying forward for inoculating poor children of this place with cow pox, gratis," the Managers, being willing to contribute all in their power to forward so useful a design, give the use of their Committee room on any two days of the week, and at such hours as may be found most convenient for all parties.

A renewed effort is made in 1806 to feu the Gallowgate property. It was of considerable extent ; lay nearly opposite to the Old Castle, and sloped down to the edge of the Loch, at the Spring-garden end. Several offers are made, but no sale is accomplished.

On the election, in 1807, of Mr. Robert Milne to the mastership, the salary is fixed at £30 a year. A few weeks after his election four boys were detected in having gone over the wall at the end of the yard and entered Mr. Anderson's back ware-

room in Queen Street (he was known as "Buck" Anderson), on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, either in the dead of night or early in the morning, and stolen therefrom a quantity of toys. Though the articles were of small value, yet the theft was so very audacious that the Managers handed the boys over to the Magistrates, and "instructed the master that in future he shall, with his own hand, lock the gate and fore and back doors of the House, and shall also, every night, himself see that the boys are in bed." An under master was proposed but not elected. However, in order to have a better check over the boys, it was resolved that a person should be got to sit as porter, constantly, at the fore gate. An old man is appointed at a wage of 5/- a week and his dinner. I hope this word "constantly" did not mean that the poor man had to sit at "the fore gate" night and day.

In 1809 the whole of the Gallowgate property was, by public roup, disposed of, on feu, to Mr. Alex. Innes, dyer, for £91 a year. Mr. Innes laid out the street which to-day bears his name, and there, at the end nearest to the Loch, he carried on, for many years, his business. The extent of the good done by the Managers at this early period

may be estimated by the monthly payments made in December, 1809 :—

To the Poor on Monthly Table	.	£	63	19	8
Occasional Supplies	.	.	.	60	12 8
For the Orphans at Nurse there was paid			5	4	6
To Deserted Children	.	.	.	6	0 7
The Coffins cost	.	.	.	2	2 6
The Orphans' Clothing	.	.	.	5	8 0
The Public Soup Kitchen got	.	.	.	5	4 0
Annuitants for the month	.	.	.	5	0 0
The month's cost of the House	.		33	7	11½

Pauper Lunatic Fund and Sick Man's Friend, besides the Kitchen, were all aided by our Managers. In truth, there is scarcely a charity in the city, 80 years old, which was not nursed into existence by the men who, week after week, met at the House, ostensibly only managing it, but really also guiding and helping every other local benevolent effort.

These weekly "confabs" must have concentrated many a goodly notion into action, whether in making a further appeal to the Kirk-Session or Magistrates, or assisting Mr. Ross in getting up a performance of sacred music in S. Paul's Church, which they

think "will be greatly helped by the organ." The tickets of admission are to be 3/- each, and the words of the poetry to be sung are to be 6d. a copy. This effort produced a free balance to the House of £120 11s. 6½d. The performers are handsomely thanked; and not two years after, the same gentlemen got up an oratorio, which yielded the still larger net balance to the funds of £156 16s. 8d.

The sale of the old property is frequently discussed, and as the Town and County are interested in getting a new Court House and Prison, and no more likely site than this possession of theirs—Earl Aberdeen's old residence, appearing, the Managers admit their readiness to sell so soon as they can get accommodated elsewhere. A special Committee of their number have committed to them the task to look out for a suitable place.

The members of the Committee visit Millbank, on the Hilton Road; Collison's Croft, between the North side of Bridewell and Skene Street West on the Rubislaw Road; and the ground at Blackfriars Street, belonging to the Governors of Robert Gordon's Hospital. These have each their separate charms. Millbank is on a gently sloping bank, with a Southern exposure, at a moderate distance from

town, and having command of both spring and burn water. Collison's Croft is airy, retired from the public road, and very reasonable in price, which seemed also to be the chief recommendation of the ground at Blackfriars Street, belonging to the Trustees of Robert Gordon.

The property in Castle Street is meanwhile offered to be sold for £2350, and it is resolved that, with the new building, a separation shall be made of the Boys' Hospital and the Poor's House. Their funds had from the first been kept apart, but for years the impression was growing that it was not good in any way to have Workhouse and School in one building. Dr. Dingwall Fordyce and Dr. Henderson, both unable to be present, wrote, earnestly pressing the sale of the old property, the separation of the Houses, and the need of the School being in a healthy, airy locality.

These two Managers are, I think, typical of the men who piloted the Institution through its early troubles. The one writes from Arthur Seat, the other from London. Both are representative of "forbears," who had worked and contributed for the same ends. Arthur Seat, the residence of the one, had been the residence of Principal Blackwell

and his wife. Here is one of the Principal's works, written there, and here is a volume of his sermons—his own manuscript. He has marked where he preached the sermons, and added, on some of them, you will see, "Mrs. Blackwell being present." The beauty and excellency of "Arthur Seat," now absorbed in the Duthie Park, are alluded to in "Sketches of the Present Manners, Customs, and Scenery of Scotland," a copy of which I hand for your examination. Also a copy of another book, written at Arthur Seat, Dr. Fordyce's famous "Sermons to Young Men."

The Dr. Henderson who writes from London, urging, with other matters, the retention of certain stock left by his brother, because it is at present yielding, says he, "56 per cent," is the friend of Roger, and Moore, and Byron, and all the best writers of the day. He had himself written "The History of Ancient and Modern Wines," still the best, and most readable, as it is the most handsomely got up book, on the subject. Here it is. In looking at the house of Arthur Seat, don't think of it simply as the Refreshment Rooms for the Duthie Park, or at Caskieben as the profitable investment of a wood merchant from Fife, to whom its grand

old trees are more than its perfect Druid circle. If, after a passion tost life, our great poet, in classic Greece, saw the Lochnagar of his boyhood as he looked on Troy—see ye, in Arthur Seat and Caskieben, the homes cared for, and loved, of Blackwells, and Fordyces, and Hendersons, who were, in other years, the foster fathers of *your* House.

In 1816, the Managers were made aware of the settlement of Mr. Simpson of Collyhill, by which the Workhouse became his residuary legatee. It was some years after, however, before Mr. Simpson's money found its way into the needy treasury of the House. The Boys' Hospital, part of that establishment, was then costing for the maintenance, education, and clothing of its inmates, about £500 a year. One year's income seldom met one year's outgo. Care and economy was rigidly practised, as the minutes shew—the entire cost per boy, per annum, was then £10 5s. 6d. A year's shoes to a boy cost some 12/6; a suit of clothes, brass buttons included, with "patent thread," 18/-; yet, for all that, the funds were low, very low, when Mr. Simpson's bequest appeared.

In 1818, the long looked for sale of the old House is accomplished. In November of that year it passed to the Court House Commissioners for the sum of £2100; and shortly we shall see the Institutions which had, like Siamese Twins, had a united existence, separated, but not to the death of either. The life of your Hospital is covered by a period of 145 years. Half of this life, as I have said, was spent in closest union with the old House, and the old folk for whose benefit it was chiefly meant.

We can hardly part from that old House and that old Management, with its kindly usage of the poor, without a word. The influence of rates and sects and petty smallness was not then rampant. The applause of men was less looked for. There were no public reporters in those days. For charity and the love of God the poor were helped. *The House* was not then used either as a test, or by its offer made the means of escape from legal liability. These are modern liberal inventions, all of them.

In July, 1885, Dr. Cameron, leaning on his crutches, in the House of Commons, commented at some length on the Poor Law administration in Scotland, saying—"that relief was administered in such a parsimonious and stingy manner as to be a disgrace to civilization."

But our history is now that of the School, not the Workhouse. The Managers seemingly were not, after all, satisfied with Collison's Croft, Millbank, or Blackfriars Street, for we find them, on the 7th March, 1818, reporting that they thought the house and property on the East side of the Gallowgate, formerly Mr. Garioch of Heathcot's house, now belonging to Dr. Henderson, very suitable—an eligible purchase at the price sought, with moderate outlay, easily convertible into a good Hospital. Accordingly, at next meeting, the father of our present city member reports that he has bought, for £950, Mr. Garioch's old town mansion—that this price includes in it a feu-duty of £3 yearly, payable to the Hospital by the Barber Society, and that Dr. Henderson, the seller, was to give a deduction of £50 as a donation to the Hospital.

An additional building is arranged to be put up in the fore court as an office and committee room, having a drying loft in the floor above. By means of this additional building, detached from the Hospital, we are told, that the Hospital will now not be incommoded by the crowds of poor who have frequent occasion to present themselves before the Committee.

Alexander Nisbet and John Addie, for the sum of £252, undertake to execute this whole work, including the rebuilding of the garden wall, so that for little more than half the price got for the old Workhouse, the second Hospital is created.

The description given of the various rooms in this old mansion, and their suitability for their new use, reads strange, in the light of the ideas of the cubic space now required per scholar, with regulation size for dormitory and for school. What think we of "a well-finished room, 14 feet by 16, also of a proportional height," being set apart as the schoolroom for 40 boys? I have not the measurement of the garrets, which were the dormitories; but, as every garret has 4 windows, one opposite to the other, we may believe there was fresh air in reasonable abundance. This was found, however, not to be so, and the "combceiled floor" is made into a dormitory for the boys.

With the new House, a new arrangement is made. The Managers having become convinced that the treasurer and clerk has enough to do with the poor, make arrangements for having a teacher for the boys, who shall have the sole charge of the boys' education, and the oversight and direction of their

behaviour out of, as well as in, the school. He must be qualified to teach the boys reading, writing, and arithmetic—unmarried, and of unexceptional religious and moral character. He shall give his whole time to the work—be of middle age, and such a man was to receive bed, board, and washing, and a salary of £20 a year. Five applications were made, when Mr. Reid, “who has finished his course at College, and proposes to engage for five years certain”—is duly elected for one year. Mr. Reid became then, on Monday, 21st September, 1818, the first teacher of the Boys’ Hospital.

For his guidance, for that of the mistress, and for the boys, rules and regulations, to the number of 77, are prepared, highly approved of by the Managers, who appoint the whole to be observed by all concerned in time coming, or to such time as the same shall be rescinded, altered, or amended. However, gentlemen, these rules and regulations seem to have been so good as that we have the greater number of them with us until this day.

Cast-iron beds, with wooden sides and bottoms, are for the first time introduced. I see they cost 25/- each.

In February, 1820, on the examination of the boys, the examining Committee are so greatly pleased with the progress of the boys, in their general education, their Shorter Catechism, their neatness, cleanliness, and general propriety of behaviour, both within and without doors, that they recommend a rise of salary to Mr. Reid. An addition of £6 5/- is accordingly made to Mr. Reid's former salary, making it now £26 5/- a year. The Committee remarked, with pleasure, that the boy, William Lawson, had been taught some French, for which he seems to have a genius.

In expectation of a ready sale, in America, of oakum, two tons from the House, with two tons from Mr. Watson of Bridewell, had been sent by the ship "Earl of Dalhousie" to Halifax. Mr. Webster is instructed to see about the division of the return price.

On the expiry of his five years' engagement, in the end of 1823, Mr. Reid resigned the position of teacher. A year after Mr. Milne, the treasurer and clerk, resigned those offices, and became teacher. A Committee of the Managers recommend, and their recommendation is acted on, that henceforth separate books shall be kept for the Hospital, and the United

Fund, for they do not appear, say they, to have "any essential connection together."

The drying loft above the office is made into a schoolroom; and as the directors of the Savings Bank find that the room in which they hold their weekly meetings is far from comfortable, they request and get from the Managers the use of the room adjoining the Committee room of the Poor's Hospital, on the Saturday mornings, from nine to ten o'clock.

The depression in the value of shipping, and other circumstances, hindered Mr. Simpson's Trustees from realizing his estate, and nothing had come to the funds of the Hospital, as yet, from the Collyhill Bequest. However, the Committee instruct that the boys be, from this date, furnished with a napkin for their neck, and a pocket napkin each. The napkins for the neck are cut each into two halves, for washing. They are worn by the boys on week days, and always—the pocket napkins are used only on Sundays. Until they get Mr. Simpson's money the Managers cannot enlarge the Hospital; they can only, we see, smarten up the boys.

In March, 1828, I find more boys are accommodated, in 5 additional beds, and Mr. Simpson's

Trustees are applied to for a payment to account. In June of that year, with the view of establishing something for girls, like the Hospital for boys, the Managers at the meeting each subscribe something, and resolve to use their influence to get subscriptions. They took subscription papers with them, we are told.

The effort thus begun was successful, and in October the Managers resolved to buy a house and garden larger than the one occupied, and let, for a Girls' Hospital, the one occupied by the boys, it not being thought advisable to lay out the funds just subscribed in the purchase of a property at the outset. On the 5th December, 1828, the Managers purchased from Messrs. Farquhar & Gill the property in the Upperkirkgate, formerly the town residence of Mr. Anderson of Bourtie, for the sum of £1150.

Mr. Milne, the teacher, has his salary advanced from £35 to £45; and Davie, the officer, gets a gratuity of £4 4/- for his extra services during these last two years.

In April, 1829, after an examination in writing, spelling, arithmetic, and the principles of the Christian religion, with a knowledge of church music,

Mrs. Hay, relict of Mr. John Hay, late merchant and shipowner, is unanimously elected matron of the Girls' Hospital.

In July, Mrs. Hay gets handed to her the keys of the house vacated by the boys. On the Monday following this entry, at 10 o'clock in the morning, the girls enter. On the 22nd July, the Ladies' Society are granted permission to hold their meetings in the waiting-room, outside the gate, on the express condition that they do not interfere with the business of the Hospital, United Fund, Session meetings or Savings Bank meetings—a very extensive set of prohibitions to female curiosity and activity.

The House in the Gallowgate is let for £32, for the Girls' Hospital, and its Managers lend to the Boys' Hospital the purchase price of their Upper-kirkgate property, at 4 per cent., for the Boys' Hospital.

Regular Committees are now formed for the Poor's House and for the Boys' Hospital. The funds of each are valued separately, and the proportionate allocation of donations and legacies is arranged. A further contribution from the Trustees of Mr. Simpson is asked, and received, and within the

next five years some £3000 is paid into the treasury from that source. I need hardly tell you that the goodly rent roll of the Collyhill Bequest has made, ever since, the minds of the Managers easy.

Before fairly turning our backs on the times of the struggles of the Managers to get ends to meet, let us look at the men and their methods. In these days they did not meet at night, "under the lamp-light, dimly burning," to deliver post prandial harangues, more or less understandable; they met at 10 o'clock in the morning, and there, for the carrying on of the work of the School, you would find Provost Gavin Hadden, Mr. Menzies of Pitfodels, Dr. Glenney, Priest Gordon, Dr. Dingwall Fordyce, Mr. Alexander Webster, Dr. Ross, or an equal number of the same class of citizens, giving their untired thoughts to the work; and, when need arose, putting ungrudgingly their hands into their own pockets to enable it to be carried on. These were the men, and these were their methods. It has been left to School Board days to find that men are fittest for careful mental work, after they are thoroughly exhausted with physical labour. Well, well, "nature hath framed strange fellows in her time," and they are many: at present more so than at any former

period of local history. It will be interesting to observe "the survival of the fittest" in this new struggle. Will the honest working mechanic, the earnest minister, the eager lawyer, pushing doctor, or successful merchant, prove "*the* fittest?" I hesitate to say. The experiment has been made, and we must wait.

On the 9th October, 1830, Dr. Ogston was elected physician to the House, at a salary of £5 a year, and that position the good old doctor holds, after fifty-and-five years.

In January, 1835, Mr. Milne resigned the office of teacher, which he had held for 12 years. The examination of a successor is thus gone about. First, he was requested to read a portion on prayer, and then explain the parts of speech thereof. Next, questions were asked regarding the knowledge, and what he could call to memory, regarding the nature, with proofs from Scripture, of *Original Sin*; of the divinity of our Lord; of the doctrine of the Atonement. In Geography several questions were asked; in Arithmetic several. He was then requested to retire, and write a specimen of a line in copy-hand, large and small text. Neither of two candidates so tested was selected; and, as the salary is now £45,

the Managers repeat the advertisement. After a fortnight, other four candidates come forward and are examined. I fear theological knowledge was sadly uneven, for the small committee were divided as to whether Mr. Clerihew or Mr. Williamson had answered best therein. So the Managers, when called together, "after a good deal of *conversation and deliberation*," defer the election for a few days. Mr. Williamson, however, is elected, after, I have little doubt, a good deal more "*conversation and deliberation*."

At the conclusion of the examination into a case of running away, I find this entry—"Thereafter the meeting repaired to the schoolroom, where the boys were all assembled, and they were addressed most 'seriously and pathetically' by Mr. Webster and Dr. Melvin." This is the only entry in which I find "pathos" taking the place of "pandies." The boys had not been punished this time, but restored *simpliciter*. There were 50 in the House, and their cost was now rather more than £13 a year each.

A suggestion is made at a meeting of Managers, by the Rev. Abercrombie L. Gordon, to introduce manual labour among the boys, and the subject is handed to a Committee for consideration. Nothing,

for a while, emerges out of this suggestion, and the "runnings away" continue. That serious and pathetic appeal was forgotten. The offenders had nothing to say for themselves but that they were "tired o' the confinement," so the old and time honoured curative agent is again tried; the master's conviction being that—

Yer fine moral 'suation
Is a' humbug;
Naething "persuades"
Like a rap on the lug.

At the back of the property in the Upperkirkgate some old houses were now bought; they faced to the Vennel. One of them was converted into a schoolroom, at a cost of £40; and this house, so altered, continued the schoolroom until the King Street House was built. About a year after, Messrs. Jopp & Dyce asked the co-operation of the Managers in an effort which they were about to make to sweep away the Vennel. The Managers joined in this effort, and, by and by, S. Paul Street took the place of the Vennel, which was one of the vilest, if not *the* very vilest, of all the vile places in Aberdeen then, or, for that matter, even now. It was a narrow lane, not 7 feet wide, which led, under an old arch,

from the Gallowgate down to the Loch. The houses were all small and old, and full, from the Gallowgate to the Loch, of the lowest and most depraved men and women in Aberdeen. The annihilation of such a haunt of iniquity was a great gain. The £100, contributed from the funds of the Hospital, was money well spent. When the new street was made the Managers let a house which fronted it, which they did not need, to the Managers of the United Fund. Boys' Hospital, Poor's Office, and Girls' Hospital were thus now all located within a stone throw of each other.

Mr. Williamson, the teacher, is permitted to accept the office of Secretary to the Aberdeenshire Horticultural Society, it being distinctly understood that he will not allow its duties and his love of flowers to interfere with his duties to the House.

Mr. Gordon's effort to find some manual occupation for the boys, which had been before the Managers less or more since 1831, found an outlet on a piece of ground which Mr. Gordon had taken, betwixt Port Hill and North Street, and on part of which he was already employing some boys who were attending Greyfriars School. As the Managers approved of this healthy occupation for the boys,

Mr. Williamson is instructed to take charge of the half of it for the Hospital, setting the boys to put in order, crop, and keep the same. Mr. Gordon is to correspond with the Directors of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Poor's Hospital regarding the employment of their boys.

After the examination of the six classes, into which the pupils of the School were divided, Dr. Simon Macintosh reported, on 31st July, 1845, "That the Committee were exceedingly well pleased with the order and discipline of the School, and with the general proficiency of the pupils, and that they had had abundant evidence of the continued discipline, faithfulness, and zeal of Mr. Williamson ; and they feel convinced, from the attainments made by the higher boys, and the instruction and training given to all, that this School deserves, and seems likely to repay, the most fostering care of its Managers." This anticipation of the eloquent preacher, it is pleasant to think, has been fulfilled.

Early in the next year, on his appointment to the charge of Dr. Bell's School, Old Aberdeen, Mr. Williamson resigned. Mr. Mitchell, the teacher of the Girls' Hospital, being chosen from among other candidates, as successor to Mr. Williamson.

Miss Davidson, who had been for 30 years Housekeeper, retires on a well-earned pension of £15 a year ; and, from a leet of 17 applicants for the post of Housekeeper, Mrs. Margaret Skene is selected her successor.

The Committee of Public Baths for the working classes make application for a part of the Hospital grounds running along the wall in Drum's Lane, and the Managers express their willingness to grant the ground, and aid the effort ; but, ultimately, an old church at Crooked Lane is given the preference to, and there these Baths are.

On the creation of the Poors' Act for Scotland, instructions are given to the clerk to call only those to the meetings who are Managers of the Hospital, in terms of the constitution of 1739. In 1848, some difference of opinion arose as to who the parties were who were entitled to act as Managers of the Boys' and Girls' Hospitals. A Committee was therefore appointed to enquire into this, and report. This Committee wisely reported, that as the Parochial Board of S. Nicholas are preparing a memorial for an opinion of council, the Managers should, in the meantime, confine themselves solely to the election of a Committee for the present

superintendence and management of the two Institutions. For years Interim Managers were appointed, pending this much talked of "opinion of council," which had for its main object, if at all possible, the transference of the funds of both Institutions to the newly created Parochial Board of S. Nicholas.

The Board had been fortunate in laying its hands on some pre-reformation and post-reformation funds.

Legal provision for the poor made many pay, who had never paid before, and some of these men sought, and got, seats at the Board. In imagination they saw the legal levy lessened by these Hospital funds, if they could get them, as to some extent it had been lessened by what of the Church's accumulations they had got. When, therefore, these men got a not very hopeful opinion in answer to their memorial, and heard that the Managers of the Boys' and Girls' Hospitals were preparing to seek in Parliament "An Act for appointing and incorporating Trustees for the management of the Boys' and Girls' Hospitals of Aberdeen as one Institution, and for vesting the Estates and Revenues thereof in such Trustees," they expressed themselves pleased with a representation, if only they had no part of the costs of the bill to pay. A certain fox was *pleased* not

to get grapes he coveted, but couldn't reach, because *they were sour.*

The Trustees got the Act of Incorporation, and from this date the management and funds of the two Institutions are one. In separate buildings, however, the work is for a while carried on. So careful were the Managers in those days of teaching respect for the Sunday, that I find instructions given to the master that the shoes to be used on the Sunday shall all be cleaned on the Saturday night ; and that from that date, 21st May, 1853, there shall on no account be any cleaning permitted on the Lord's Day.

The impression that the teaching of the knowledge of certain handicrafts to the boys would be useful had more than once been pressed ; but a Committee who had taken much pains to discover what was best to do, reported—"That it was not advisable to train any of the children in the Institutions to a particular trade." The girls, as they still are, were trained to do washing, cleaning, cooking, and serving in the House.

Considerable alterations and extensions are made on the Gallowgate and the Kirkgate Houses. In both Houses there are changes of matrons and of

teachers, and often evidence also of the bitterness of ecclesiastical differences. One instance I will give—certain Trustees, members of a recently formed sect, moved that the teachers need not be members of the Established Church, nor ought the teachers be compelled to go with the children to an Established Church; while other Trustees, less eager for the glory of a particular Zion, moved, and carried the continuance of the old practice, it being neither expedient nor competent for the Trustees to make the changes proposed.

The Trustees, to enable the children of the Institution to get the benefit of better drawing and music lessons, appointed a special teacher for each of these branches; and the Trustees further took into consideration, and named a Committee to report, as to whether it would be advisable to carry into effect the powers conferred on them by the 26th section of their recently procured Act. That section authorised a mode of carrying out the objects of the Institution different from the mode in which these objects had hitherto been carried out; the mode hitherto adopted being to lodge, feed, clothe, and educate, *within the House*. The mode authorised by the section alluded to is the

establishment of Day Schools, the providing premises for instruction in industrial occupations, and the boarding and lodging of the children, under such rules as the Trustees may frame. That section of the Act is permissive, not compulsory. The Trustees, therefore, might continue the system which they had, or adopt one fashioned out of the Day School system. The Committee held several meetings, and took a lot of evidence as to the comparative merits of several systems. The family system was preferable to the Hospital, where the child had parents and home of the right sort. The boarding-out system for orphans was preferable to the Hospital system, when you could get careful pious people to board your orphans with. Some little training in industrial occupation might be tried ; but, "all the evidence that you have collected," said one of the Trustees at the meeting in October, 1854, "is not sufficient to warrant the belief that anything existing in the Hospital system ought to prevent the Trustees from employing it, and continuing to do so, for it is a useful system, and needful for the proper carrying out of the charitable purposes of the Institution."

At a Special General Meeting the Committee's Report, recommending to the Trustees the adoption

of the powers conceded to them by the 26th section of their Act of Incorporation, was, by a majority, negatived.

In 1858, your dux and good conduct medals were first introduced ; and in the same year, on the resignation of the teacher, Mr. Robertson, efforts are again made to open up the appointment to others besides members of the Established Church. With very considerable point, the constituted supporters of the old practice declared that the introduction of questions of a sectarian character is much to be regretted—they inevitably tend to distract deliberation, and they withdraw the attention of the Trustees from the practical and necessary details of management—as true, gentlemen, now, as then.

I find that in 1860 the cost of maintenance, &c., of a boy, per annum, was £15 6s. 7d. ; and of a girl, £12 8s. 3d. Clothes, bread, oatmeal, &c., were all about the same cost as at present—tea was costing the Institution 4/- a pound, and sugar 6d.

In 1863, Dr. Henderson gave in a long and very carefully prepared report on the subject of finding industrial training for the boys. On his motion, the Trustees agreed to sanction the introduction into the Boys' Hospital of a system of industrial training.

On the 14th November, 1864, a Special Meeting of the Trustees was called for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of removing the Hospitals to the outside of the town. After considerable discussion and division, a motion affirming the propriety of removal was carried, and a Committee named, who, in about a year, reported that, as the present Hospital buildings are old, and in the course of a few years would need extensive repairs, the sleeping apartments too small for the number who occupy them, the premises situated in densely populated parts of the city, surrounded by manufacturing premises; and although this accommodation, deficient though it is, may be, in some respects, better than that which many of the children enjoyed previous to their admission, there is no good reason why the Managers should not afford them all the advantages which pure air and outdoor exercise are fitted to confer. The Committee's Report then proceeds to prove by evidence from Dr. John Forbes, then head of Dr. Donaldson's Hospital, in Edinburgh, now one of the Divinity Professors in Aberdeen, the advantages which would result from the boys and girls being educated in one building, and under one general superintendence. The long experience

gained by Dr. Forbes, both in Watson's and in Donaldson's Hospitals, had great influence on the Trustees, a majority of whom were now in favour of educating both sexes, male and female, under one roof. The estimated saving of £200 a year may also have had something to do with this resolve.

A piece of ground at Mount Street, measuring rather more than two acres, is now enquired after. It can be had for £40 a year; and for about £5000 a suitable building, it was estimated, might be erected there. That ground, so looked at, was a part of Glennie's Parks, belonging to the Town Council; these now form our pretty little Victoria Park.

Objections were however taken to the removal of the Hospitals beyond the city boundary, and the opinion of Mr. Rutherford-Clark on this point was taken. He held it to be illegal to take out of the Parish a Parish Hospital, and so Messrs. Farquhar and Gill were approached with the view of buying up their whole subject. Ground at the Port Hill and at King Street was also to be reported on.

Mr. Smith, the City Architect, reported very favourably of the site in King Street, and the Managers approving, Mr. Smith is instructed to prepare plans; and, in November, 1868, the Trustees petition

the Court of Session for powers to sell. On these powers being granted, the ground in King Street, measuring in whole some $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres, is feued, at about £20 per acre, partly from the Town Council and partly from the Society of Advocates. There Mr. Smith's design was carried out, and the handsome building which now ornaments that part of the city erected, at a cost, I think of over £8000.

In April, 1871, while the building operations in King Street were in progress, your President, Mr. Barnett, was elected teacher of the Boys' Hospital. He thus became its last teacher. When, a few months after, on the completion of the new buildings, both Hospitals went under one roof, he became the first teacher of the Boys' and Girls' Hospitals, and on Mr. Barnett's good, sensible management rests the credit of shaping into order a risk which many feared. Like other Trustees, I must confess I had my own doubts as to the propriety of having 50 boys and 50 girls under one roof, educated together, and taking their meals together. Fourteen years' experience, however, has shown that all these fears were groundless.

In 1872, certain Trustees called attention to the steadily increasing number of Parochial Board chil-

dren who were, year after year, being placed in the House ; in fact, said the Memorialists, the House is being made an adjunct to Nelson Street. I cannot say whether that protest had any influence in checking a zeal, which certainly was eating us up, or not ; but the number of Poor's Board children has of late been less.

In 1875, a special Committee reported that, as fewer girls than could be accommodated applied for admission, arrangements should be made for increase of accommodation for boys. That few of the boys showed muscle enough for anything else than a little garden work ; so, therefore, there was no need to carry out the industrial training idea.

The Committee were deeply impressed, however, with the propriety of not only less actual teaching, but more recreation ; they therefore recommend that all the children mingle together for two hours of an afternoon, once a week, for amusement on the Links, when the weather permits—at other times in the Schoolroom—always under the superintendence of the master and sewing mistress, and the sum of £10 was sanctioned for expenditure in the purchase of means of amusement for the children.

The same Committee recommended to the Trustees the abolition of the celibate condition of the master, and the Trustees agreeing "that celibacy hindered, and in no way helped, the master," abolished the rule. A few months after this abolition, Mr. Barnett made the experiment of training some of the inmates as pupil teachers; but, I am sorry to say, the result of this experiment was not encouraging, and the idea was given up. He made, however, the further experiment of making, in 1876, Miss Johnstone, the teacher of the Girls' Hospital, his wife, an experiment which neither he nor the Hospitals had ever cause to regret.

The Education Committee took now into consideration the propriety of having day scholars in the Institution. After nearly a year given to the consideration of this change, the Trustees accepted the suggestion of the Committee, and day scholars were introduced into the Hospital, to be taught *free*, on the express condition that the children so introduced, whether boys or girls, should not only attend regularly at the ordinary School hours, but be cleanly in their persons and clothes—inattention to this rule to be sufficient ground for immediate dismissal.

The most recent large bequest was at this date made to the Hospital by Mr. William Clark, a Trustee, and for long closely connected with the Poor's Board of S. Nicholas. The residue of his fortune, amounting to about £5000, he left in equal shares between the Hospitals, the Mechanics' Institute, the Temperance Society, and the Congregation of the Church to which he belonged. By this bequest about £1200 came into the treasury.

In March, 1878, the consideration of the Endowed Schools Bill, then before Parliament, was remitted to the Education Committee, and many meetings of that Committee, and of the Trustees, were held, the result being that the Managers pretty generally agreed that, if a broader area of selection for children were secured, the day school system carried out more attractively, and the liberty to adopt the boarding-out system conceded, if and when the Trustees deemed that system to be best for the children, they would go before the Endowed Institution Commission with a Scheme. Meanwhile, the education being given under Mr. Barnett was made of a higher and more perfect type. He had opened up a connection with the Science and Art Department at South Kensington. He went there in his

holidays, took lessons, and with the energetic Science and Art head teacher of Robert Gordon's College, won distinction. His earnestness and enthusiasm he communicated to many of you now before me, and the prizes you won are evidences of your attention and his assiduity.

In 1880, some of the Trustees thought that Sunday might be made less a weariness to inmates and teachers; a majority, however, insisted that 8 to 10 hours of devotional exercise on that day was good for both, and it is ordered so "unto this day."

The Scheme laid before the members of the Royal Commission, in Edinburgh, produced nothing tangible, and, under the dread of changes which they did not care to see, Mr. Barnett and the Matron resigned. To the first the Aberdeen School Board confided their important Middle School, and Miss Johnstone, from a crowd of competitors, was chosen Mistress of the Girls' Reformatory at Mount Street.

The interim charge of the Hospitals was now given by the Trustees to Mr. Jones and Miss Hutcheson. They set about also preparing a second Scheme to be submitted to the Commissioners. That Scheme is prepared, and will, in a few weeks, be before the members of the Royal Commission in

Aberdeen. It would be out of place and in bad taste, I think, for me to say to you how far I agree or disagree with that Scheme.

Among the Trustees there is great divergence of opinion as to the best way to make the best use of the House and its revenues. It cannot be difficult for the Commissioners, after hearing all parties, to shape out such changes as altered circumstances prove are needed. For the purpose of being a home, with food, and father and mother, to clothe, and give a godly upbringing to poor folks' bairns, these Institutions were, by voluntary contributions, created.

They have now, in^d lands and heritages, fully £70,000 of capital. The annual revenue is over £2000. With this sum 100 children are housed, fed, clothed, and educated, and 20 more are partially treated in the same way.

Whatever changes may be advised, and whoever may become the governing body of the future, may we have no radical violation of the original intention, may we have a "governing body" of men like Provost Robertson, of Glascoego, who, in 1742, with his hands full, and in the midst of political and ecclesiastical strife, yet found time to visit the

children and report that "sheepskin breeches were exceeding cold;" that, therefore, he recommended woollen cloth ones to be got, they being "as frugal" for the House, and "warmer" for the boys.

A. W.

25 DEE STREET,
August, 1885.



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